



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

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## **The Netherlands**

### **Poultry and Products**

# **Dutch Avian Influenza Outbreak Appears to be Under Control**

## **2003**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**The Minister of Agriculture expects that the cull will soon catch up with the expansion of the avian influenza outbreak.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
The Hague [NL1], NL

***Minister of Agriculture Fears the Possibility of Two Types of Avian Influenza***

On Thursday March 6, 2003 the Dutch Minister of Agriculture reported that on 8 farms poultry has been positively diagnosed with avian influenza. The number of suspect and positively diagnosed farms increased from 18 to 25. Twenty four farms are located in the Controlled Area around Barneveld, 35 kilometers East of Utrecht.

One suspect farm is located in Laren, about 100 kilometers East of Utrecht. The first preliminary tests from this farm were negative. The Ministry, however, fears that the outbreak may involve two types of avian influenza strains and the negative result may be due to that fact.

***Cull Is Catching up with the Influenza Outbreak***

The Minister of Agriculture expects that poultry on the 25 suspect and positively diagnosed farms and about 50 farms within the one kilometer distance of these farms will be culled this week. About 200,000 head of poultry on fourteen farms have reportedly already been culled. The culling capacity increased from several ten thousand to more than 250,000 per day. At the moment, the poultry is being slaughtered with carbon dioxide, by using a container, carbon monoxide, with which the chickens are killed in the stable, and by electrocution. The culling is going on twenty four hours a day. The EC put in place disease control measures in accordance with Directive 92/40/EEC and prolonged the ban on live poultry, hatching eggs and manure exports until March 13.

***European Commission Adopts Decision to Reinforce Control Measures***

According to APHIS/USEU Brussels, following a suspected outbreak of avian influenza in the Netherlands on 28 February, the Commission adopted a Decision on March 4, today to reinforce the control measures already put in place by the Dutch authorities. The Commission Decision adopted on March 4, reinforces these measures by defining them at the EU level. The Commission Decision specifies that no live poultry and hatching eggs may be dispatched from the Netherlands to other Member States or third countries. They may also not be transported within the Netherlands. The Decision is addressed to the Member States, and all Member States must amend the measures they apply to trade so that they are in compliance with this decision. The measures contained in the Commission Decision are applicable until March 13. The situation is being regularly reviewed by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health. These meetings include representatives of the Member States and the Commission. The urgent measures adopted by the Commission could then be updated to take into account the development of the situation. The Commission will continue to work closely with the Dutch authorities to ensure proper co-ordination within the EU.